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MEDIA RELEASE

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EXCELLENCE FUND DRIVE NEARS 44 PERCENT OF MISSOULA GOAL

The University of Montana Excellence Fund Drive has raised \$26,055 in contributions, or about 44 percent of the \$60,000 goal for Missoula, Gayle Walton, assistant director of the UM Foundation, said Thursday.

Giving to date compares favorably to last year, Col. Tom Davis, chairman of this year's drive, said. However, Davis said, over 500 solicitations still need to be made.

About 200 local people, organized into teams, have volunteered to call on businesses and individuals to solicit private funds for the University. Teams leading in the amount of donations collected are those led by George Leland and Bruce Rampelberg who have a combined total of almost \$10,000. Individuals most successful in recruiting new donations are Bill Nooney, Barbara Koessler, Julie Hood, and Scott Sorenson.

"We expect this year to be an exceptionally good year for charitable donations," Davis said. He said next year, due to the 1981 Economic Recovery Tax Act, the tax advantage for many people making charitable donations will be reduced.

Money contributed to the Excellence Fund is used for a variety of special projects, such as books for the library, scholarships, research grants, and faculty development, that otherwise would not be funded.

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